

Munster Police Department

To: Munster Town Council

From: Chief of Police Stephen F. Scheckel

cc: Town Manager Dustin Anderson

Date: February 20, 2023

Re: Amendment to Salary Ordinance

In July of 2022, the Police Department discussed the possibility of adding an additional School Resource Officer (SRO) to Wilbur Wright Middle School. The creation of this position was solely predicated on the School Town of Munster agreeing to funding this position fully, including **ALL** salary and benefits of the officer. After several months of negotiations the School Town agreed to the new position.

During the Police Department's budgeting process in July of 2022, we discussed with the Board of Safety that if the School Town of Munster agreed to fund the new School Resource Officer's position, that we would need to increase our authorized strength from forty-two (42) to forty-three (43) officers to replace whoever was chosen to serve in this new position. Additionally, we placed in our Budget Narrative the following:

- The School Town of Munster has approached the Police Department with the idea of having a School Resource Officer in the middle school. If the School Town approves this, the Police Administration has informed them that the costs for the position would fall to them. If approved by the School Town and Town Council the department would increase its strength to forty-three (43) officers, with the new SRO position being financially supported by the School Town of Munster.

Unfortunately, there was an oversight during the creation of the 2023 Salary Ordinance and subsequent approval by Council, and the ordinance only authorized forty-two (42) sworn officers. Since this request to increase the sworn strength of the Police Department is **budget neutral**, we humbly request that the Town Council amend the Salary Ordinance from forty-two (42) sworn officers to forty-three (43) sworn officers.